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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/523,848	10/17/2005	Vernon J. Donnelly	5173-0010WOUS	4413
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O'Shea Getz P.C. 1500 MAIN ST. SUITE 912 SPRINGFIELD, MA 01115				
EXAMINER				
LITHGOW, THOMAS M				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1797				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
05/19/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/523,848

Applicant(s)

DONNELLY ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas M. Lithgow

Art Unit

1797

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 19-37, 40-52 and 62-64 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 19-32, 40-43, 45-47, 50, 51, 62 and 63 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 33-37, 44, 48, 49, 52 and 64 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 February 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-846)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 19 Dec 2005
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 19-32, 40-43, 45-47, 50-51 and 62-63 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 06 March 2009.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 4-13, 33-37, 44, 48-49 and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In regard to claim 4, it is unclear what the phrase "arranged at opposed ends thereof" is suppose to represent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 4-5, 8-9, 12-13, 33, 44 and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tanner (US 6103114). Tanner '114 discloses a filter cartridge 50 having mounting lugs 57 (fig. 1) at the upper end of the cartridge. As a cylinder the cartridge has two axes which are equal so that the major axis would equal the minor axis. The cartridge has a circular seal surface at seal 52 with the lugs 57 being spaced therefrom in an "opposed" manner.
5. Claim 64 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 01/47399. As shown in figs. 8-9, there is a filter cartridge 116 having planar lugs 324 at the upper end of the cartridge.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Tanner '114

alone or further in view of Robertson (US 5811004). Tanner '114 discloses a filter cartridge 50 having mounting lugs 57 (fig. 1) at the upper end of the cartridge. As a cylinder the cartridge has two axes which are equal so that the major axis would equal the minor axis. In any event, Robertson '04 discloses the use of a pitcher/carafe gravity fed filtration cartridge, similar if not identical in function to that of Tanner '114 and applicant's invention, in which a filter cartridge may have a circular cross section or oval or polygonal [col. 5, 55+]. Specifically the oval shape would yield a major axis/minor axis as recited in the claims.

8. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanner '114 as applied to claim 4 and further in view of Robertson '004. Robertson '004 teaches the use of Oval shaped cross sections [5, 55] or which an ellipse is equivalent.

9. Claims 7, and 10-11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanner '114 as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of Magnusson (USPGP 2002/0036162). The use of planar bayonet lugs which are chamfered and extend about the filter 10 (see fig. 1/cover) cartridge more than 15 degrees is taught by Magnusson '162. To so

employ this known connection technique on the Tanner '114 cartridge would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

10. Claims 34-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanner '114 as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of Brueggemann (US 5002665). Although not specifically shown, most gravity fed carafe filters such as Tanner '114 that employ a particulate filter media, usually at least a portion of which is activated carbon. This particulate media has to be retained in the cartridge during use and various screens/grilles having openings large enough to pass water but small enough to retain the particles are employed for this purpose. Brueggemann '665 discloses the use of a snap in type retainer screen/grille 11 which functions to retain particulate media while passing the water. To employ such a known structure (snap in screen 11) for its intended purpose in the Tanner '114 gravity flow filtration cartridge 50 would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

11. Claim 48 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanner '114 as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of Huang (US 5873995). The use of a counter to indicate degree of use of a gravity fed carafe filter is taught by Huang '995 (see element 20). Using such a

filter cartridge beyond its useful life is known to result in bacteria growth within the filter cartridge with adverse effects on the user's health.

Therefore the use of a counter to indicate end-of-life conditions for such a filter would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

12. Claim 49 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art as applied to claim 48 above, and further in view of either one of Hembree (US 5525214) or Wadsworth (US 6123837). The use of a counter that resets upon removal/insertion of a new cartridge is taught by either one of Hembree '214 [3, 5+] or Wadsworth '837 [15, 1-4+]. To employ such a feature allows simple resetting of the counter with minimal interaction from the consumer.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas M. Lithgow whose telephone number is 571-272-1162. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. -Fri..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on 571-272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thomas M. Lithgow/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797

Thomas M. Lithgow
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1797

TML